

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 IO-13 /092 R

DRAFTED BY OSD/ISA:MR. DUNLOP
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:EREHFELD
EUR/P - MR. GEHRON
-----260653Z 049194 /16

R 252304Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO
ALL NATO CAPITALS
INFO USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS STATE 121301

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, MILI, OCON, AWACS

SUBJECT: NATO AEW: PRESS REPORTS ALLEGING US MAY
CONSIDER EUROPEAN AIRBUS FOR NATO AEW

REF: USNATO 3698, DTG 201606Z MAY 77

1. REFTEL REPORTS TWO ARTICLES WHICH APPEARED RECENTLY
IN THE BRITISH PRESS, ONE ALLEGING THAT THE US "NO
LONGER INSISTS" ON THE BOEING E-3A FOR NATO AEW AND
THAT NATO MAY IN FACT CONSIDER THE FRANCO-GERMAN A-300
AIRBUS FOR THAT ROLE. THAT ARTICLE, BY RUTHERFORD
IN THE FINANCIAL TIMES, FURTHER ALLEGES "AN APPARENT
READINESS ON THE PART OF DR. BROWN NO LONGER TO
INSIST ON THE SYSTEM BASED ON THE BOEING E-3A."
THE OTHER ARTICLE, BY HOLLINGWORTH IN THE DAILY
TELEGRAPH, SAYS DEFENSE MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE AIRBUS
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OPTION DURING THEIR RECENT MEETING IN BRUSSELS.

2. WE ARE AWARE OF NO DISCUSSION BY MINISTERS IN BRUSSELS
OF AN "AIRBUS OPTION" FOR NATO AEW. DR. BROWN CERTAINLY
PARTICIPATED IN NO SUCH DISCUSSION. FURTHERMORE, THE
USG CONTINUES TO SUPPORT STRONGLY THE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED
NATO DECISION TO SELECT THE BOEING E-3A AIRCRAFT FOR THE

ALLIANCE AEW ROLE. THE USG IS AWARE OF NO OTHER AIRCRAFT

WHICH CAN DO THE JOB AS WELL AS THE BOEING E-3A
EQUIPPED WITH THE AWACS RADAR.

3. ADDRESSEES MAY MAKE USE OF THE ABOVE AS APPROPRIATE
IN DISCUSSIONS WITH NATO OR HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
OR WITH THE PRESS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Sent Date: 25-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Drafter: MR. DUNLOP
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